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28 July 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

DIA review(s) completed.

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REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 July 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Laos

Military activity has stepped up in Laos over the past week, as rightist forces continue to exert pressure on pro-Communist positions.

In northern Laos, General Vang Pao's Meo guerrilla units have joined with regular rightist battalions in an effort to recapture territory between Ban Ban and Samneua which were lost to the Pathet Lao last winter. Although Vang Pao's units have met with some successes since the beginning of the drive in early July, the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese have moved reinforcements into the area and may be preparing countermoves.

Another major rightist operation is now under way in the extreme south, where several rightist battalions have launched a coordinated drive against pro-Communist positions along the Se Kong River southwest of Attapeu near the Cambodian border.

Both of these rightist initiatives are receiving support from the Laotian Air Force, whose T-28 aircraft have played an increasingly effective role in counterinsurgency operations during the past year.

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In other areas, only light activity has been reported. Rightist units are conducting a clearing operation in northwest Sayaboury Province, while to the north pro-Communist forces reportedly are beefing up their positions near Muong Sai and Nam Tha. [REDACTED]

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2. Thailand

A brief skirmish between government forces and suspected Communist subversives in Nakhon Province on 22 July was the first such engagement in northeast Thailand. The incident was triggered when a routine police patrol interrupted a meeting of some 18 dissidents, some of whom were identified as well-known Communist suspects. After an inconclusive exchange of fire, the subversives withdrew into the forest leaving behind a pistol, ammunition, food, and documents. A subsequent search of the area revealed an encampment serving approximately 40 dissidents. [REDACTED]

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In southern Thailand, a Thai police patrol clashed with Communist terrorists along the Malaysian border on 26 July. One terrorist and two Thai policemen were killed. There have been similar incidents in recent months between government units and remnants of the Communist Terrorist Organization that continue to operate in the border area. [REDACTED]

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3. Congo

Most of last week's fighting occurred in the area south and southwest of the rebel-held Fizi area. Congo Army units along the North Katangan border continued their pressure on rebel bands, despite some increased rebel firepower in the form of bazookas. The government hopes to keep these rebels on the defensive while it prepares for a major cleanup campaign, now scheduled for September. [REDACTED]

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4. British Guiana

The security situation in British Guiana remains unsettled. Continuing terrorist incidents, although there has been no increase since the first week of July, tend to keep tensions up. These are probably the work of militants in the pro-Communist People's Progressive Party (PPP).

On 15 July, after an unsuccessful filibuster by the PPP, the Legislature passed a motion extending the year-old state of emergency to 18 October. The government now will be able to continue to detain for an unspecified time any person whose freedom is deemed prejudicial to the public welfare. Another move which should strengthen the government's hand in dealing with violence is the proposed appointment of David Rose as police commissioner. Rose, a former Guianese police superintendent now serving as administrator of Antigua, has a fine reputation as a police officer, and his appointment should give a boost to police force morale.

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5. Colombia

Argentine military officials are conferring with their counterparts in Bogota on the problem of international insurgency. They are also traveling throughout Colombia to study Colombian Army methods of combating insurgency and banditry.

Among the weapons confiscated during a recent clash with Communist bandits was an M-1 rifle whose serial number reveals that it belonged to a US infantry unit which saw action in the Korean war, according to a press release from the Ministry of War. The ministry spokesman speculates that the M-1 may have been captured by the Chinese in Korea and smuggled into Colombia.

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[REDACTED]

A high-powered bomb hidden in the washroom adjacent to the office of the US Military Mission in the War Ministry in Bogota in midafternoon on 27 July destroyed a large portion of the building, injured three Colombian officers, and killed the charwoman. No US casualties resulted, although the North Americans were the apparent target. The bomb was apparently of a sophisticated type hitherto unused by Colombian terrorists. Three suspects were detained shortly after the incident, according to a US Military Mission member, but neither they nor their organization have yet been identified.

[REDACTED]

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6. Peru

Fidel Castro, in his 26 July speech, added Peru to the list of three other countries--Colombia, Guatemala, and Venezuela--that he has designated as the most likely revolutionary targets in Latin America.

[REDACTED]

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Evidence so far indicates that the MIR has already achieved or has nearly achieved its initial objectives. It has established and supplied safe zones in the central, southern, and northern areas of Peru. It has a hard core of disciplined foreign-trained guerrillas who have already initiated highly publicized and successful armed action in the central zone. Moreover, the MIR has won unexpected cooperation from the indigenous population in its areas of operation. The MIR guerrilla warfare effort is well under way, and limited action at this stage is no indication that its momentum has been halted.

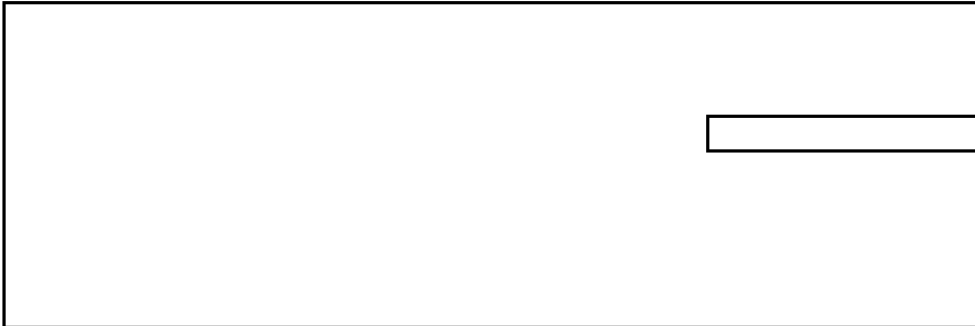
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7. Venezuela



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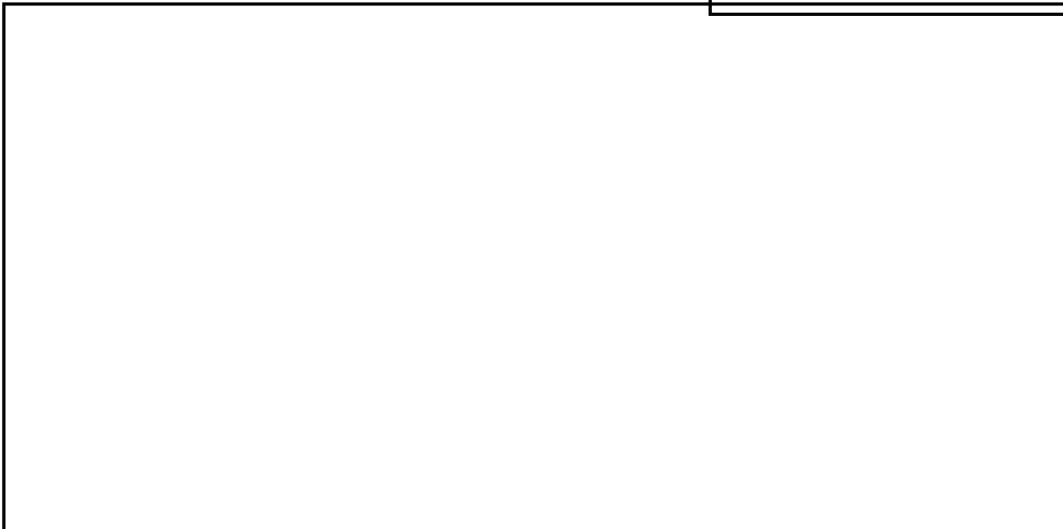
On 14 July, the press reported that government troops were pursuing guerrilla groups in the mountainous border area between Sucre and Monagas states in eastern Venezuela. On the same day in western Venezuela, two guerrillas attempted an unsuccessful ambush of a military transport in Falcon State, according to press reports. One guerrilla was captured. On 24 July, the press reported that guerrillas had ambushed a military vehicle in Falcon State, killing the driver and wounding three soldiers.

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On 19 July, the commanding officer of a government counterguerrilla operations theater in Lara State was relieved of his command for political reasons. He had specialized in counterinsurgency and was considered one of the more competent Venezuelan officers in this field.

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[REDACTED]

On 22 July, a press report of possibly doubtful accuracy reported that President Leoni had released 40 prisoners, about half of them right-wing military officers and the others young leftist guerrillas. On 24 July the government released 201 prisoners, 156 of them convicted or charged with common crimes, the other 45 individuals held for military or "political" crimes. Although no big-name extremist leaders were included in the group, at least 14 have been identified as leftist extremists and Communists. [REDACTED]

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There was a renewal of oil pipeline sabotage in eastern Venezuela on the night of 26 July, the first since 4 June. While national guard members and oil company employees were fighting the fire caused by the first sabotage incident about 360 miles east of Caracas, a second nearby pipeline explosion resulted in the injury of some 30 persons, two seriously. At approximately the same time, still another pipeline explosion occurred in a separate area about 12 miles away. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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